

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 039657

EXDIS

E.O11652: GDS

TAGS: NA, SS, SA, PFOR, US

SUBJECT: LOCKHEED

REF: (A) JIDDA 965, (B) JIDDA 6266 (11 SEP 1975), (C)
JIDDA 6332 (14 SEP 1975), (D) STATE 299348 (19 DEC 1975)

1. RECENT LOCKHEED DISCLOSURES STEMMING FROM CHURCH SUB-COMMITTEE HEARINGS HAVE NOT FEATURED ALLEGED PAYOFFS IN SAUDI ARABIA. THOUGH INTENSE PRESS INTEREST IN LOCKHEED ACTIVITIES GENERALLY INCREASES LIKELIHOOD OF LEAK OF SUCH ALLEGATIONS, THIS IS BY NO MEANS A CERTAINTY. SENATOR CHURCH TO DATE HAS DISCLAIMED INTENT TO DISCLOSE NAMES OF RECIPIENTS OF ALLEGED PAYOFFS AND SUBCOMMITTEE HAS INDICATED THAT CURRENT HEARINGS DESIGNED TO SHOW LOCKHEED MISDEEDS NOT CONFINED TO MIDDLE EAST.

2. PAST DISCUSSIONS BY AMBASSADOR AKINS WITH SAUDIS ON THIS ISSUE (SEE REFS B AND C) ONLY SEEMED TO INTENSIFY THEIR IRRITATION. WE BELIEVE IT PROBABLY BETTER NOT TO RAISE IT AGAIN UNLESS WE HAD STRONG EVIDENCE OF IMMINENT
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LEAK NEEDED TO FOREWARN SAUDIS.

3. REF D DESCRIBES EXTENSIVE EFFORTS TAKEN BY DEPARTMENT
TO AVOID DISCLOSURE OF UNSUBSTANTIATED ALLEGATIONS OF

PAYOFFS TO FOREIGN OFFICIALS AS RESULT OF SEC PROCEED-
ING AGAINST LOCKHEED.

4. CHURCH SUBCOMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS ARE COMPLETELY SEPARATE
FROM SEC ACTIONS, AND SUBCOMMITTEE IS NOT SUBJECT TO COURT
ORDER DESCRIBED REF D. WE ALSO BELIEVE LOCKHEED DOCU-
MENTS SUBPOENAED BY SUBCOMMITTEE TO DATE ARE LESS COM-
plete in some cases than those obtained by SEC. WITH
REGARD TO SUBCOMMITTEE DOCUMENTS, ONLY ASSURANCE THAT
NAMES OF ALLEGED RECIPIENTS OF PAYOFFS WILL NOT BE DIS-
CLOSED IS ABOVE NOTED STATEMENT TO THAT EFFECT BY SUB-
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN.
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